

8 ~~16.~~ (Amended) A reaction vessel assembly for an automatic chemiluminescence measuring apparatus for immunological assay which includes a photometric device, the assembly comprising:

a vessel comprising walls for receiving a sample to be tested, a test reagent, and a substrate coupled with a chemiluminescent substance, and also a filling opening, wherein the walls are proof against any light emitted by the chemiluminescent substance, and the filling opening corresponds to a window for reading an intensity of any light emitted by a reaction mixture formed by the sample to be tested, the reagent, and the substrate, and wherein the filling opening is completely surrounded by a planar rim; and

a light-proof shoe that is proof against external light and that is selectively pressed against the planar rim to form a temporary dark chamber, the shoe being provided with a central opening for passing light between the vessel and a photometric device.

9 ~~17.~~ (Amended) An automated chemiluminescent apparatus for immunological assay, the apparatus comprising means for supporting, guiding, and stepwise displacement of vessels, or of sets of reaction vessels along a path having a predetermined number of positions, means for supporting samples to be analyzed, means for supporting reagents, and means for taking determined quantities of samples and of reagents and for injecting the quantities taken into the reaction vessels, together with means for washing the vessels, means for reading a result, and means for feeding sets of reaction vessels and for ejecting sets of used vessels, the apparatus including means for forming a temporary dark chamber that is proof against external light, said dark chamber having photometric means for measuring an intensity of light and a vessel including walls in a form of a vessel for receiving a sample to be tested, a test reagent, and a substrate coupled with a chemiluminescent substance, and also a filling opening, wherein the walls are proof against any light emitted by the chemiluminescent substance, and the filling opening corresponds to a window for reading the intensity of any light emitted by a reaction mixture formed by the sample to be tested, the reagent, and the substrate, wherein the filling opening is completely surrounded by a planar rim, and including a light proof shoe provided with a central opening for passing light between the vessel and the photometric means and being selectively pressed against the planar rim.

Cancel Claim 18.

P2 11 20. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim ⁹17, wherein the photometric means include moving equipment for pressing the shoe against the window of the vessel.

22. (Amended) A reaction vessel for an automatic chemiluminescence immunological assay apparatus comprising a plurality of walls defining a chamber and defining a filling opening, said walls being proof against any light emitted by any contents of the chamber, said filling opening providing a window for measuring the intensity of any light emitted by the contents of the chamber, and said filling opening adapted to be being entirely surrounded by a rectangular planar rim and against which a light-proof shoe having an opening for passing light is selectively pressed. *spectrophotometer*

Sub 6: 23. (Amended) A method for performing immunological assays that detects light emitted by a reaction mixture consisting of a sample, a reagent and a chemiluminescent substance, said method comprising:
combining a sample and a reagent in a chamber of a reaction vessel as set forth in claim 17 having a filling opening;
adding a chemiluminescent substance to the chamber;
pressing a detector against the filling opening;
measuring the light emitted from the chamber when the detector is pressed against the filling opening to provide a first reading;
illuminating a light source external to the chamber;
measuring the light emitted from the chamber with the light source illuminated to provide a second reading; and
comparing the first reading and the second reading to determine the light-tightness of the chamber.

REMARKS

P3
Claims 16, 17, 20, 22 and 23 have been amended. Claim 18 has been cancelled. Accordingly, Claims 6-11, 15-17 and 19-23 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are requested.